

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has reviewed and considered the Office Action dated February 24, 2005. In response thereto, the specification, drawings, and abstract are amended; claims 4 and 7 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and claims 1, 5, 8, and 10 are amended. As a result, claims 1-3, 5-6, and 8-11 are pending.

Objections to the Drawings under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5)

Fig. 3 is amended to remove the reference numeral “303” and its lead line. Further, “FIG. 3” is now labeled. Fig. 5 is amended to add the reference numeral “107” and its lead line.

Objections to the Disclosure

The specification is amended to add the issued U.S. patent number. Further, the specification is amended to clarify the illustration of the item referenced by reference number “107”. In addition, the abstract is amended to be generally within the range of 50 to 150 words.

Claim Objection

Claim 7 is objected to as being a substantial duplicate of claim 3. Claim 7 is now canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Golden et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,196,789 (hereinafter “Golden et al.”).

Claims 10-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Maddix et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,014,032 (hereinafter “Maddix et al.”).

Claims 3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Golden et al. in view of Maddix et al.

Claims 1 and 10 are amended to recite that the conductive driven guard layer is applied on the first layer of dielectric material with a mask on an end of the conductive central core to prevent the conductive driven guard layer from touching the conductive central core, as recited in the original claim 4. None of the cited references disclose or teach this feature. Applicant

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figs. 3 and 5. These sheets, which include Figs. 3 and 5, replace the original sheets including Figs. 3 and 5. The entire set of drawing sheets are attached.

Attachments: Complete Replacement Set of Drawings including Figures 1-6 (6 pgs.)
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes (6 pgs.)

respectfully submits that claims 1 and 10 and their dependent claims patentably distinguish over the cited references.

Claim 8 which includes allowable features is now amended to include the features recited in the original claim 1 and is patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

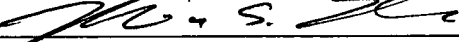
In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application and a favorable response are respectfully requested.

If a telephone interview would be helpful in resolving any remaining issues, please contact the undersigned at 612-752-7367.

Respectfully submitted,

DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP
Customer Number 25763

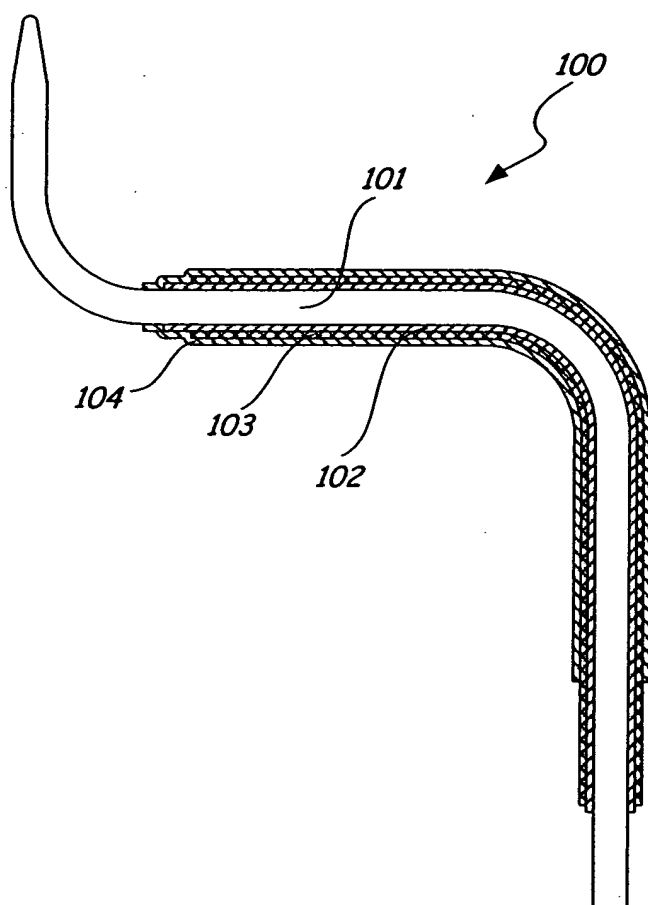
Date: May 24, 2005

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1/6

FIG. 1



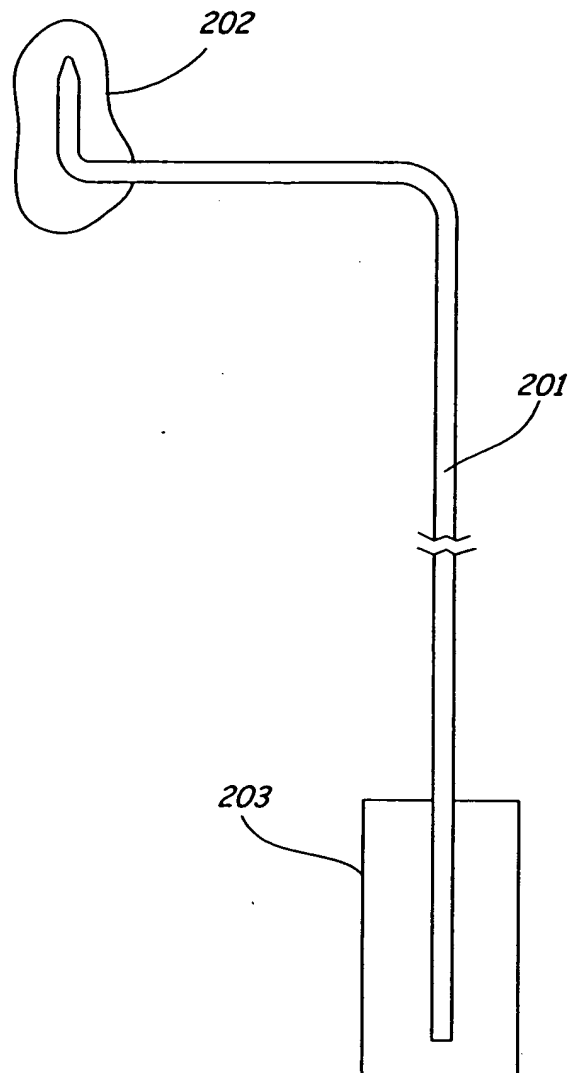


FIG. 2

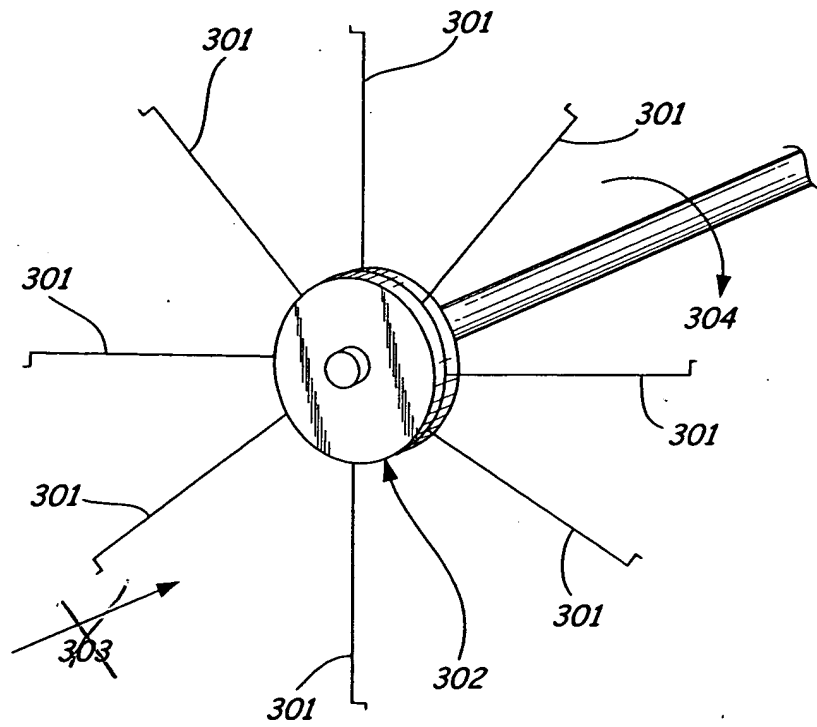
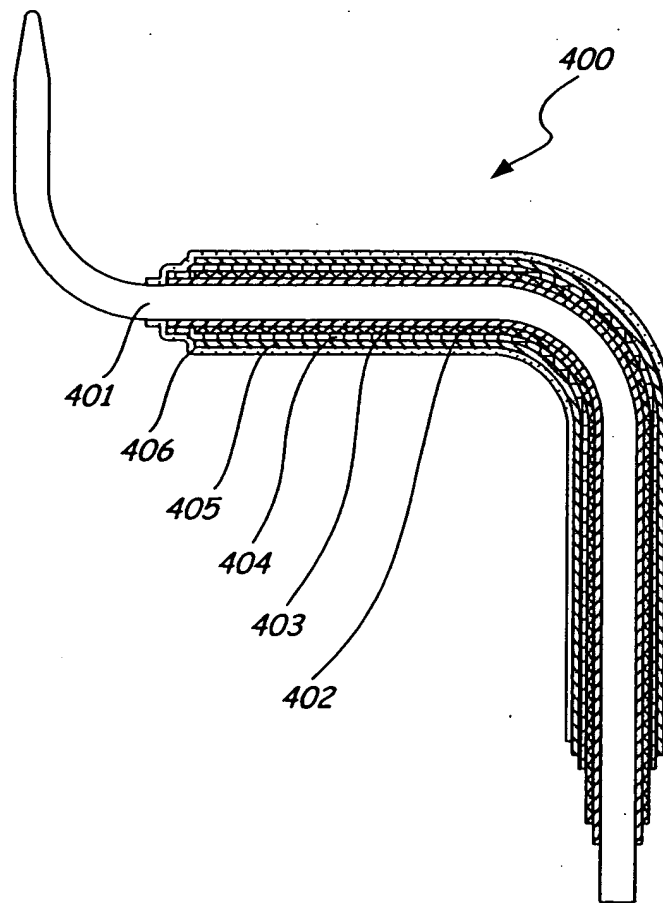


Fig. 3

FIG. 4



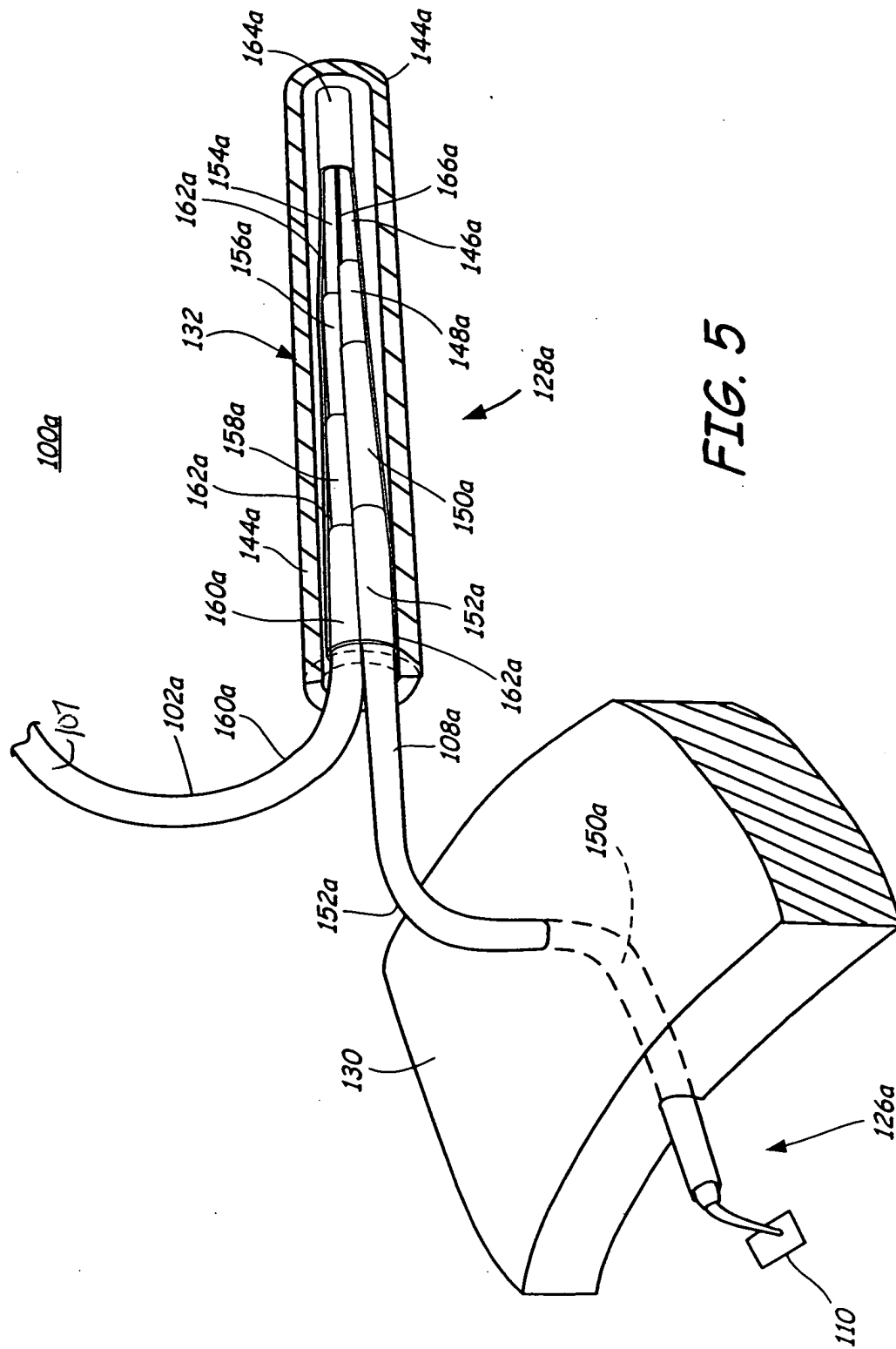


FIG. 5

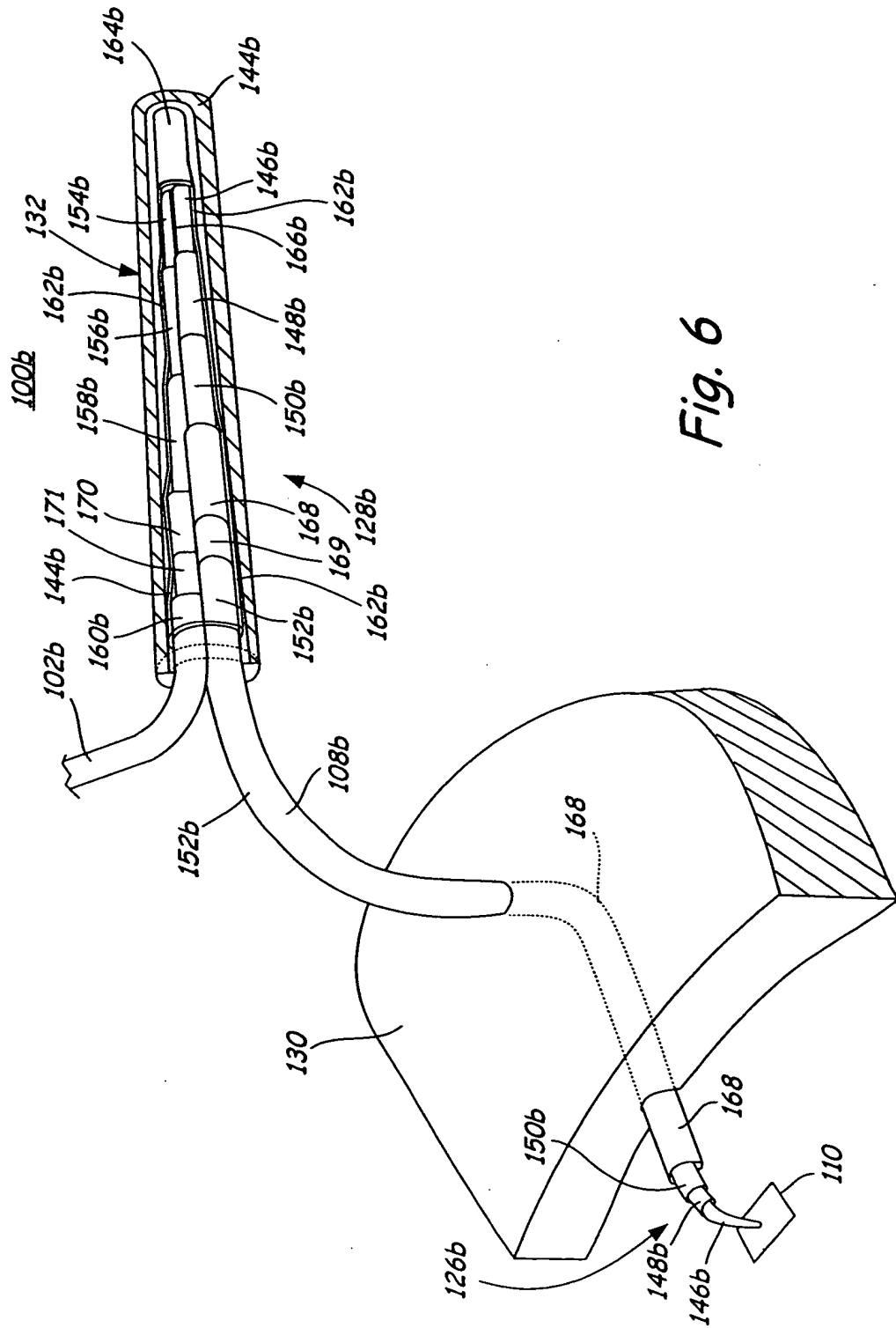


Fig. 6